

Message Text

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D - MR. SAMUELS

S/S- WHLUERS

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, P

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF JUSTICE CALL ON DEPUTY
SECRETARY

1. PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF JUSTICE ZENYA CALLED ON DEPSEC
INGERSOLL, AUGUST 6, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR THEMIDO AND
IBERIAN DIRECTOR LUKENS. AFTER DEPSEC HAD INQUIRED ABOUT
MRS. ZENYA'S HEALTH AND ZENYA HAD PRESENTED HIS COMPLIMENTS
AND APPRECIATION FOR THE CALL, DEPSEC NOTED THAT USG EN-
COURAGED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND GOP EFFORTS TO
RESOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEM.

2. ZENYA STATED THAT POLITICAL EVENTS HAD BEEN QUOTE UN-
PREDICTED AND UNPREDICTABLE UNQUOTE. HE SAID THAT AFTER
LONG PERIOD OF DICTATORSHIP, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WERE
USED TO BEING ON OUTSIDE AND HAD NOT BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO
THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF POWER. HE ADMITTED THAT PORTUGAL
FACED WITH WEIGHTY PROBLEMS BUT SAID THESE WOULD BE OVER-
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COME ONCE DEMOCRACY RESTORED IN PORTUGAL AND DECOLONIZATION

CARRIED OUT IN AFRICA.

3. ZENYA WENT ON TO SAY THAT DESPITE 46 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP, DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL HAD EXISTED FROM 1820-1926, AND, THEREFORE, NEW REGIME, WHILE NOT REVERTING TO PRE-1926 TYPE FORMULA, WOULD HAVE FIRM DEMOCRATIC BASE ON WHICH TO BUILD.

4. CONCERNING DECOLONIZATION, ZENYA SAID GOP DETERMINED TO PRESS AHEAD. HE SAID PRESIDENT SPINOLA AND ALL MEMBERS OF CABINET WERE IN AGREEMENT ON THIS PRINCIPLE BUT HE DID NOT SPELL OUT TIMETABLE. HE DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT HEAVY MILITARY BUDGET COULD NOT BE CUT BACK BEFORE DECOLONIZATION COMPLETED AND TROOPS DEMOBILIZED. SUMMARIZING, HE SAID THAT PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAD TO BE SOLVED QUICKLY AND THAT GOP WOULD APPRECIATE HELP OF USG IN THIS REGARD.

5. DEPSEC ASKED ABOUT FOREIGN INVESTMENT, NOTING THAT NUMBER OF US FIRMS HAD EXPRESSED FEARS ABOUT PRESENT SITUATION AND HAD POINTED OUT TO US THAT STRIKES, LOCKOUTS AND WAGE INCREASES HAD MADE THEIR POSITION DIFFICULT.

6. ZENYA REPLIED BY STATING THAT PORTUGAL WELCOMED FOREIGN INVESTMENT. HE ADMITTED PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WERE DISCOURAGING TO FOREIGN INVESTORS BUT NOTED THAT EUROPEANS WHO HAVE FAR LARGER AMOUNTS AT STAKE THAN US HAD SAME COMPLAINTS. FURTHERMORE, FOREIGNERS WERE NOT BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST PER SE, AS PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIALISTS WERE HAVING IDENTICAL PROBLEMS.

7. ZENYA ATTRIBUTED CONTINUAL UPHEAVAL TO FACT THAT ANTI-DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATION WAS STILL ON BOOKS. HE THOUGHT IT NATURAL THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOCIAL EXPLOSION BY WORKERS AFTER 50 YEARS OF REPRESSION. ZENYA SAID THAT GOP PLANS NEW LEGISLATION WHICH WILL MAKE INVESTMENT EASIER AND WHICH WILL AT SAME TIME SET GROUND RULES FOR TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES, RIGHT TO STRIKE, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, ETC. HE MENTIONED NEED ALSO TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SECTOR BUT STRESSED THAT THERE WOULD BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

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8. COMMENT: ZENYA EXTREMELY PLEASED BY VISIT WHICH WE CONSIDER USEFUL IN DEMONSTRATING TO SENIOR PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN SITUATION. KISSINGER

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